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Appln No. 09/745,627

Amdt date February 6, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 6, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, comprising:

providing clue information by the first server regarding at least one of the plurality of target sites to the user computer at a start time;

connecting the user computer to the at least one of the plurality of target sites, the at least one of the plurality of target sites including a plurality of target locations;

receiving answer information responsive to the clue information;

recording an answer time upon receipt of the answer information;

comparing the answer information to a predetermined answer key;

subtracting points associated with the user if the answer information does not match the predetermined answer key and increasing points associated with the user if the answer information matches the predetermined answer key;and

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wherein the points subtracted if the answer information does not match the predetermined answer key is based on a difference between the answer time and the start time~~recording an end time upon a match between the answer information and the predetermined answer key; and~~

~~associating points to a difference between the end time and start time.~~

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 1 wherein connecting the user computer to the at least one of the plurality of target sites, the at least one of the plurality of target sites including a plurality of target locations, comprises providing the user computer a link to the at least one of the plurality of target sites.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 2 wherein the link is a URL of the at least one of the plurality of target sites.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a

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first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers,
of claim 3 further comprising:

identifying the user at the game site; and

providing the ~~identified~~ user computer unique user
identification information.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user
of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a
user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a
first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers,
of claim 4 wherein the predetermined answer key includes a
plurality of answers, each answer of the plurality of answers
including specific information associated with and available at
the at least one of the plurality of target locations of the at
least one of the plurality of target sites.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user
of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a
user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a
first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers,
of claim 5 further comprising:

selecting at least one of a plurality of games; and

generating a unique voice module associated with the at
least one of the plurality of games selected, the unique voice
module providing game information to guide the user to the at
least one of the plurality of target sites.

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Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 6 wherein the generation of the unique voice module and the clue information is based on the at least one of the plurality of games selected.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 7 wherein the connection of the at least one of the plurality of target sites is based on the game selected.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 8 further comprising:

aggregating the points associated for each answer information that successfully corresponds to the predetermined answer key; and

storing the points aggregated at the game site.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a

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first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 9 wherein storing the points aggregated includes establishing individual buckets for each identified user and associating the points aggregated to the individual buckets established and a plurality of prizes.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 10 further comprising:

identifying a plurality of users at the game site; and
generating unique user identification information corresponding to each of the plurality of users identified.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 11 further comprising notifying each of the identified user regarding status of the game selected.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method of tracking a user of a an Internet-based search and tracking game executing on a user computer, the user navigating between a game site on a first server and a plurality of target sites on other servers, of claim 12 further comprising:

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generating additional clue information, the additional clue information pertaining to an additional one of the plurality of target sites;

initiating additional start time in response to generation of additional clue information;

connecting the user computer to the additional one of the plurality of target sites;

receiving answer information after connection of the user to the additional one of the plurality of target sites;

comparing answer information to a predetermined answer key;

recording an end time upon the comparison of the answer information to the predetermined answer key being successful; and

associating points to a difference between the end time and start time.

Claims 14-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A method of tracking a user of a search contest, the user navigating between a game site and a plurality of target sites, comprising:

providing clue information regarding at least one of the plurality of target sites to the user;

connecting the user to the at least one of the plurality of target sites, the at least one of the plurality of target sites including a plurality of target locations;

receiving answer information responsive to the clue information;

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comparing the answer information to a predetermined answer key; and

granting points based upon a match between the answer information and the predetermined answer key; i

deducting points based upon a difference between the answer information and the predetermined answer key; and

measuring a time period delimited by when the clue information is provided and when the answer information is compared, such that the points granted or deducted is further based on the time period measured.

Claims 22-26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of points subtracted decreases with an increase in difference between the answer time and the start time.